



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION WARFIGHTING CENTER AND FORT RUCKER
453 NOVOSEL STREET
FORT RUCKER ALABAMA 36362-5105

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

IMSE-RCK-SO (385)

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Directors and Safety Officers/NCOs

SUBJECT: Commanding General's Summer Safety Message

1. The summer season is upon us, bringing with it warmer weather and opportunities for traveling and recreation with families and friends. It is the time of year when many of us will be participating in outdoor activities such as swimming, boating, grilling out, and driving to vacation destinations.
2. Four of the major accident categories are privately owned vehicle (POV), motorcycle (MC) accidents, water injuries, and heat-related injuries. Speeding, fatigue, failure to wear seatbelts or personal protective equipment (PPE), and alcohol consumption threaten the lives of everyone – Soldiers, civilians, and Family members. Boating accidents and injuries due to operator error are on the rise. Currently 70 percent of boating accidents are due to operator error. Drinking and driving don't mix whether you are driving a car, boat, or personal watercraft. While participating in outdoor activities here in the Deep South, be mindful of the potential for heat-related injuries. Keep in mind the necessity for proper hydration and consumption of meals to prevent heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Monitor the wet bulb temperature frequently by calling 334-255-7744. It is updated every 20 minutes.
3. On 1 March 2007, the Enterprise community lost nine lives as the result of a tornado. Be aware and prepare for severe weather. Remember, a tornado *watch* – is issued to alert you to the possibility of tornado development. A tornado *warning* – is issued when a tornado has actually been sighted or is indicated by radar. The safest place to be during a tornado is in a strong building on the lowest floor...in an interior room such as a bathroom or closet. Keep away from windows. If you are in your vehicle, seek shelter. Planning ahead and identifying potential hazards, gives you the time necessary to take appropriate actions to prevent the loss of lives.
4. Commanders and Directors will ensure compliance with the USAAWC "101 Days of Summer" Circular (Fort Rucker Circular 385-1), to include conducting safety briefings and inspections of Soldiers' POVs and motorcycles. Although not mandatory, I encourage Department of the Army Civilians to participate in these inspections as well.
5. Summer is an enjoyable time, but it is fraught with dangers - some visible, some not. Prior planning is the first step to having a safe and fatality-free summer.

VIRGIL L. PACKETT II
Major General, US Army
Commanding